

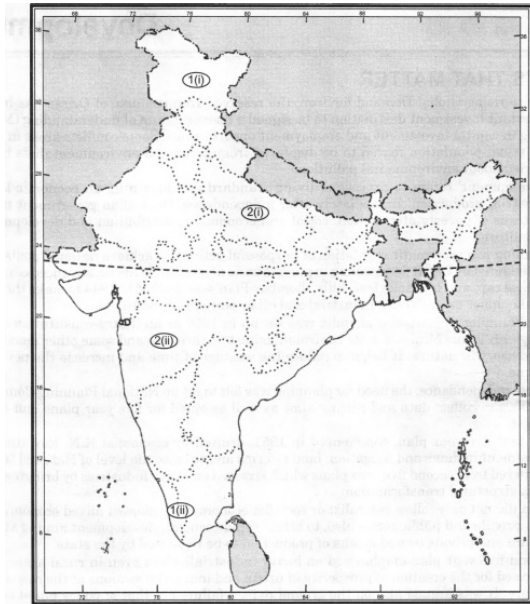
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## CBSE Test Paper 05

### Class 12 - Political Science (B-2 Ch-2 Era of One-party Dominance)

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1. Which of the following state got non- Congress ruling in 1st legislative elections.
  - a. Uttar Pradesh
  - b. Kerela
  - c. Madhya Pradesh
  - d. Bihar
2. Since 1989 until the elections of 2004 which party has been gaining strength in Lok Sabha?
3. How did socialist party originate?
4. Why did the critics think that elections in India will not be a success? Mention any two reasons.
5. Which party emerged the second-largest party in the 1952 general elections and with how many seats?
6. How did the Congress Party succeed in maintaining its dominance till 1967?
7. Examine any three reasons for the dominance of Congress Party in the first three general elections in India.
8. Explain how the general elections of 1952 in India were a landmark in the history of democracy all over the world.
9. "India's first general elections of 1952 become a landmark in the history of democracy all over the world." Justify.
10. "The extent of the victory of the Congress in the first three general elections was artificially boosted by our electoral system". Do you agree with this statement? Justify.
11. On a political map of India locate and label the following and symbolise them as indicated:



### Questions

- i. Two states where Congress was not in power at some point during 1952-67.
  - ii. Two states where the Congress remained in power through this period.
12. Study the picture given below and answer the questions that follow:



### Questions

- i. What does the cartoon represent?
  - ii. What does the term Tug of war refer to?
  - iii. Who has been shown on the branches of a tree?
13. Explain as to why the first decade of electoral competition is known as Congress system.

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**Answer**

1. b. Kerela

Explanation: Communist party of India came into power in Kerela in 1957.

2. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was gaining strength in Lok Sabha since 1989 until the elections of 2004.
3. The Congress Socialist Party was formed in 1934 within the Congress. In 1948 the amendment in Congress Constitution to prevent dual party membership forced the socialists to form a separate Socialist Party. Hence, "Acharya Narendra Dev" originated the Congress Socialist Party.
4. The critics think that elections in India will not be a success because of the reasons given below:
- i. India was a poor and illiterate country.
  - ii. Many countries in Europe had not given uniform rights to all women till mid of the 20th century. In this context, India's experiment with Universal Adult Franchise appeared very bold and risky.
5. The Communist Party of India with 16 seats, was the second-largest party in the 1952 general elections.
6. The Congress Party succeed in maintaining its dominance till 1967 due to following reasons:
- i. The Congress was already well-organised party and by the time other parties could think of a strategy, the Congress had already started its campaign.
  - ii. Congress had the 'first off the blocks' advantage.
  - iii. Congress had an organisational network down to the local levels.
  - iv. Most importantly, as the Congress was till recently a national movement, its nature was all-inclusive.
7. The Congress Party succeed in maintaining its dominance till 1967 due to following

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reasons:

- i. The Congress Party had inherited the legacy of the National Movement. Moreover, it was the only political party to have an organisation spread all over the country.
- ii. The Congress Party had the most popular and charismatic leader in Nehruji. The party got 364 of the 489 seats in the first Lok Sabha elections and finished way ahead of any other challenger.
- iii. It was already a well-organised party and till other parties could reach up to their level, Congress had already begun with its campaigning. This gave the party 'first off the blocks' advantage.

8. The general elections of 1952 became a landmark in the history of democracy because of the following reasons:

- i. Big Test of Democracy- The first general election was the first big test of democracy in a poor and illiterate country. Till then democracy had existed only in prosperous countries like in Europe and North America where everyone was literate.
- ii. India experimented with Universal Adult Franchise- India experimented with Universal Adult Franchise which by that time had not been given in some European countries. It was restricted for women. This appeared as India's bold and risky step.
- iii. Elections were competitive- Not only this, the elections were competitive. There were on average more than four candidates for every seat.
- iv. Level of participation was encouraging and fair- Even the level of participation in elections was encouraging and more than half the eligible voters turned out to vote on the day of elections. And when results were declared, these were accepted as fair even by the losers.

Thus, observers outside India were very much impressed. Undoubtedly India's general elections of 1952 became a landmark in the history of democracy all over the world.

9. India's first general elections of 1952 become a landmark in the history of democracy all over the world because:

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- i. These elections were competitive among various parties.
    - ii. The participation of people was encouraging.
    - iii. The results were declared in a very fair manner, even to be accepted by the losers in a fair manner.
    - iv. This experiment of India also proved the critics wrong.
    - v. It proved that democracy could be practiced anywhere in the world.
  10. It is correct to say that the extent of the victory of the Congress was artificially boosted by our electoral system because, for example, in 1952 elections, the Congress obtained 45 percent of the total votes. But it won 74 percent of the seats. On the other hand, the Socialist Party secured 10 percent of the votes but it could not even win three percent of the seats. It was due to the system of election i.e. the first past the post method. Under this system, a person who gets more votes than others gets elected. Thus, Congress got more votes than others and it won more seats which were much more than its proportional share. The non-Congress votes were more than the Congress votes but their votes were divided between different rival parties and candidates. So the Congress was still way ahead of the opposition and managed to win.
  11.
    - i. Two states where Congress was not in power at some point during 1952-1967:
      - a. Jammu and Kashmir.
      - b. Kerala.
    - ii. Two states where Congress remained in power through this period:
      - a. Uttar Pradesh.
      - b. Maharashtra.
  12.
    - i. The cartoon represents the dominance of one party i.e. Congress, which is being tugged by opposition parties to throw Congress out of power.
    - ii. The term "Tug of war"(29 August 1954) refers to a impression of the relative strength of the opposition and the government. It also refers to pulling out the Congress by criticism and mentioning its weaknesses in an honest and justified manner.
    - iii. Pt. Jawarhalal Nehru and his cabinet colleagues has been shown on the branches of tree.
  13. Reasons of Congress dominance:
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- i. **Party's name and fame since 1885:** Congress was the only party since 1885 when it was constituted by A.O. Hume as a safety valve in the protection of the British Raj. It was later joined by personalities like Mahatma Gandhi and many more. They all fought for freedom under the flag of the Indian National Congress.
  - ii. **Scarcity of politicians:** Only a few educated people in India were known to politics. The Congress leaders, therefore, deluded the public through the nomination of candidates on the basis of caste, community, and local influence. A social demographic view of constituencies, both general and reserved reveals the tactics of Congress's poll strategy.
  - iii. **Strategy on candidates' nomination:** The voters were mobilized at the constituency level by local leaders on the basis of caste and community affiliations. Since the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections were held simultaneously during 1952, 57, 62 and 67, the nomination of candidates was made on similar considerations of caste and community arithmetic.
  - iv. **Support from powerful elites:** The Congress managed to elicit support from powerful and socially influential groups to win elections in 1952, 57 and 62.
  - v. **Illiteracy and Innocence:** During the Nehru period, the politicization process was no down slow, but the powerful narrow elite of Congress continued to benefit from the low level of political consciousness of the electorate. The Indian voters had not yet learned to question their manifesto and past performance and the Congress Party built each time her castle on this state of illiteracy and traditional loyalty.